

Swear not at all. Bless and Curse not.

THESE are the commands, not of man, but of GOD, who hath solemnly declared, "That he will not hold him guiltless, who taketh his name in vain." And darest thou, whom he can instantly destroy, both body and Soul in hell,—darest thou bid defiance to the Almighty, and wantonly incur that guilt, that exposeth thee to the dreadful effects of his eternal displeasure? What is it that can tempt thee to a crime, so heinous in its nature, and so fatal in its consequences? Dost thou not thyself acknowledge that swearing is an unprofitable sin? And wilt thou bring thyself under the penalty of DAMNATION for that which thou knowest will not profit thee? How often hast thou perjur'd thyself, through want of thought, or in the madness of thy mirth, or in the fury of thy passion, thou hast sworn by GOD to the Truth of what thou didst not know to be true; yea, too often didst know in thy heart to be a falsehood? Wouldst thou be willing to stand upon record convicted of perjury, before an earthly tribunal? And shouldst thou not tremble to think, of how many perjuries thou wilt hereafter stand convicted at the judgment seat of GOD? Didst thou ever consider what DAMNATION means? When thou callest for damnation on thyself, wouldst thou be willing God should give thee that horrid wish? When thou damnest thy blood, or when thou damnest thy neighbour, is thy heart so void of humanity and pity, as really to desire the everlasting curse to light on him or thyself? If thou dost desire it, thou art a monster, a devil, and not a man. If not, why dost thou in thy haste or anger, rashly imprecate on thyself or others a vengeance, that must fall on thine own head, without a speedy repentance? O! call on God whilst it is not yet too late, and say, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Break off this accursed habit before it becomes incurable. Though thou art a swearer and blasphemer, yet if thou repentest and amendest, there is forgiveness with God, that he may be feared. Set therefore a watch over thy mouth. Swear not wantonly, prophanely, or falsely, by the awful name of God. Curse not thyself or others, who are made after the similitude of God; but remember, "That to fear God, and keep his commandments, is the whole duty of man; and that God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be Evil."

Let not this rise in judgment against you.

May 11. 1785.

and Cuffs not
Tweed not all Bleds

